

PRESS RELEASE – October 18, 2006

**MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING
IN THE MONTANA FEDERAL COURTS – JANUARY 10, 2007**

It was two years ago this month that the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana announced its plans for the implementation of its new Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) system. The District of Montana has been live since the summer of 2005 and now has approximately 600 attorneys filing over the internet. In accordance with Local Rule 1.6(c), all attorneys admitted to the Bar of this Court or permitted to appear pro hac vice are required to register in and to use CM/ECF by **JANUARY 10, 2007**, unless good cause, such as the unavailability of high-speed internet service, can be shown.

CM/ECF has exceeded all expectations for providing internet access to parties throughout the District. There are only two (out of ninety-four) federal districts that have not implemented electronic filing and the success is in large part to the federal practitioner who has utilized this new technology.

The CM/ECF system uses standard computer hardware, an Internet connection, and a browser, and accepts documents in Portable Document Format (PDF). The system is easy to use—filers prepare a document using conventional word processing software then save it as a PDF file. After logging onto the District's web site with a court-issued password, the filer enters basic information relating to the case and document being filed, attaches the document, and submits it to the Court. A notice verifying court receipt of the filing is generated automatically. Other parties in the case then automatically receive e-mail notification of the filing. The system provides concurrent access to all case files to the Court and its users.

To meet this mandatory requirement, an attorney must have both a log-in and password from the national PACER system, www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov, and a separate log-in and password from this Court, www.mtd.uscourts.gov. The ECF login and password is received after completing a 2-hour CM/ECF training session (2 CLEs) with the Court and submitting the ECF User Registration Form found on the Court's website. Registration in this Court's CM/ECF system waives the registrant's right to service by means other than CM/ECF as to all documents uploaded into the system.

A list of contacts for training sessions can be found on the Court's website, www.mtd.uscourts.gov. In order to avoid the last-minute rush, sign up early for the limited training sessions.